

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following paragraphs on page 1, line 2:

### CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a national phase application of international application PCT/EP2004/010254, filed September 14, 2004, and claims priority to German application 103 50 352.8, filed October 29, 2003, the both of which are herein incorporated by reference.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 3-4, with the following amended paragraph:

The invention relates to a device for singulating overlapping flat mailings ~~in accordance with the preamble of claim 1.~~

Please insert the following paragraph on page 2, immediately before line 1:

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

~~The object is achieved in accordance with the invention by the features of claim 1.~~ Accordingly, one aspect involves a device for singulating overlapping flat mailings in an upright position in a path of travel with several singulating sections arranged along the path of travel. Each singulating section has conveyor belts spaced apart from each other and above each other and transporting the mailings. At an opposite side of the path of travel, each singulating section has retaining elements acting on the mailings with a friction force and at a height between the conveyor belts. A speed of travel of the conveyor belts in each singulating section is higher than the speed of travel of the conveyor belts of the respective singulating section upstream in the direction of travel. Further, individually mounted deflection rollers of the

conveyor belts of both adjacent singulating sections are arranged at different heights along a common axis at each transition between the singulating sections.

Please insert the following paragraph on page 3, line 24:

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the following paragraph on page 4, immediately before line 1:

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION